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marily for those who are just beginning the study of law, than in those designed for more advanced students and practitioners. It may be doubted, therefore, whether, as is the case here, two editions of this treatise were warranted within thirteen years. One thing, however, is sure, that it now contains the merit of former editions and notes up to date, which, if not essential, are still desirable, and it is with pleasure that it is recommended to the student class.

*B. F. P.*

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ELEMENTS OF DAMAGES. A HANDBOOK FOR THE USE OF STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS. By ARTHUR H. SEDGWICK. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1896.

This little volume is an excellent sample of the modern idea of a text-book. The bulky volumes to which the profession has been so long accustomed have proved themselves so unfit for anything but reference, that there has grown up an imperative demand for just such book as this, which shall combine clearness and accuracy of statement with just sufficient reference to decided cases to prove the correctness of the principles laid down. Those two most important objects the author has kept steadily in view, and has succeeded to a marked degree in accomplishing them.

The arrangement of the work is in some respect very similar to that of the series of Handbooks issued by the West Publishing Company, but in several points it seems to contain marked improvements over even that admirably edited series. One of these is the careful discussion of the principle involved that precedes each rule; and another is the citation of the facts of the cases selected as illustrations, rather than that of the mere principle of law involved. Both these are a material assistance to both student and practitioner; enabling the former to perceive the application and scope of the principles and rules stated in the text without the necessity of referring to the cases themselves, and permitting the latter to see at a glance the applicability of these principles and rules to the case in hand, without a like reference.

Of course in matters of detail, this volume does not compete with larger and more diffuse works, such as Sedgwick and

Sutherland. The author disclaims any such intention ; and it is easy to see that in consequence of the design of this volume such competition would be impossible. Such works will always remain as a mine of more or less available ore, which may be mined with far greater ease by the use of this little volume as a pick or shovel, wherewith to dig it out. And used in this manner, it will prove of the greatest utility.

*Ardemus Stewart.*

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ELEMENTS OF THE LAW OF AGENCY. Students' Series. By ERNEST W. HUFFCUT, Professor of Law in Cornell University. Boston : Little, Brown & Co. 1895.

One of the commonest of mistakes made by lawyers of the day, and one that is the occasion of much unnecessary labor to the courts, is that of overloading the brief with references to cases. The lavish citation of inapt authorities is burdensome and distressing to the judges and must, of necessity, divert their minds from the really important and relevant precedents that ought to govern the case before them.

How strikingly similar is the experience of the practitioner in turning for assistance in his studies to the pages of the text-books. How he mourns the advent of the great modern digests, that have made it possible for unlearned men, after a little skillful plagiarizing and watering of the standard texts, to bolster up their work with a vast mass of recent cases, often irrelevant and usually badly arranged, and name the completed monstrosity a treatise on the law. From such conglomerations, it is a real pleasure to turn to a work so compact and well-wrought as that of Professor Huffcut on the Elements of the Law of Agency. The volume is in the Students' Series, and is not unworthy a place by the side of the writings of Cooley, Stephen, Bigelow and others that have already appeared under that name. The author aims "to set forth the manner in which obligations are incurred through the acts of an agent, and to do this as a natural sequence to a study of the manner in which like obligations are incurred by one's own acts." Perhaps the most striking characteristic of the book is the painstaking and accurate analysis which the subject has